

# Plant Disease in Kansas

## Kansas wheat is looking better

### Special points of interest:

- *Wheat crop healthy for now*
- *Pine wilt on the march*

Fall wheat disease survey is a time to look ahead and see what the spring may hold for the crop. Recent rains over much of the state have dramatically improved the crop and allowed late planted fields to emerge. Before the rains of the first half of this month, the crop was poor in many places and subject to erosion and wind desiccation.

Fields were surveyed throughout central, west central, and parts of southwest and north central regions. Some wheat streak mosaic was seen in occasional fields at trace amounts in Trego, Gove, Ness, Rush, and Scott counties. The only substantial problem was seen in Graham County where volunteer was common and a couple of fields had 1-3 per cent infection in adjoining wheat. This

infection level is still low in relative terms but does indicate increased risk in that area.

Plants demonstrated a yellowing with mosaic and appeared stunted from the virus. Overall, fields had less virus problem than anticipated. The hot dry weather of August through October can be ideal for the complex but may have been too dry. Volunteer crop that bridges the disease from one crop to another was absent in many areas because of extreme dry conditions.

Other diseases were few. Some leaf rust was observed in volunteer wheat but little was observed in the planted crop and overwintering will not likely occur if normal weather patterns exist. Speckled leaf blotch was extremely rare in the fields

but was observed to have increased after rains.

## Pine wilt on the march westward

Ouch! New county records in Smith, and Rooks in north central and Meade and Seward in southwest Kansas.

This is by far the most severe year in central and western Kansas for pine wilt and spread. It is difficult to determine what is the cause or causes of the significant spread in

western Kansas. The fall weather and stress that pines were in may have been an important factor. There are numerous other hunches but we just don't know why the big jump. The new finds are all in communities and not in rural settings although surveillance has been conducted of windbreaks and other rural plant-

ings.

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Forest Service, and the Kansas State University Extension Service are working hard currently in identifying infected trees in the hopes of keeping the disease in check in these new locations.

See map on next page.

PLANT PROTECTION AND WEED CONTROL  
PROGRAM

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## Plant Protection and Weed Control Program

Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

### Our Mission is to:

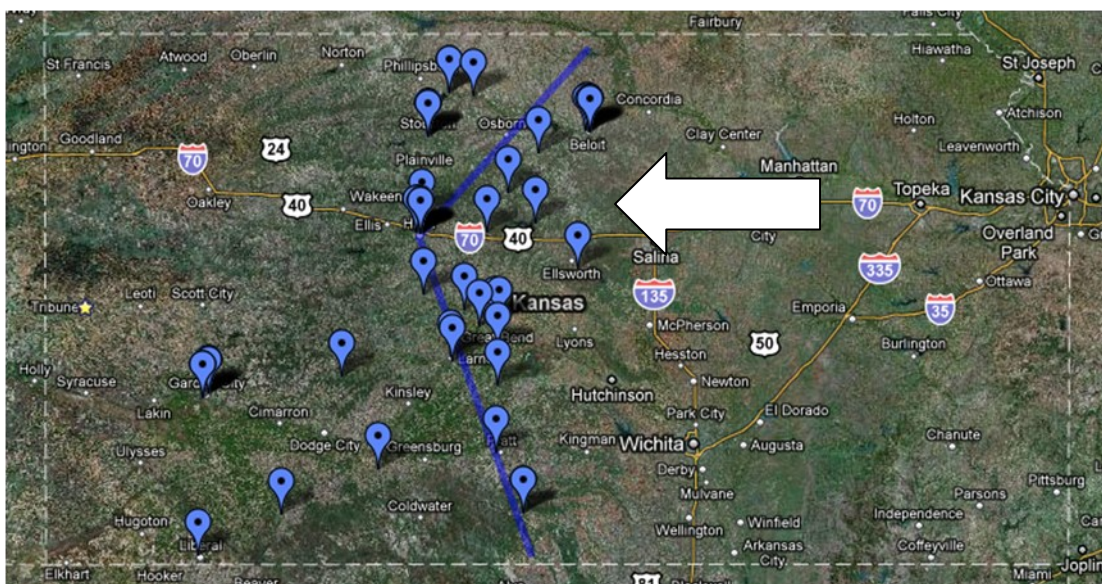
- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantine pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.



## INVASIVE SPECIES

The Plant Disease Survey in Kansas has been conducted since 1976. The survey addresses disease situations in field crops, native ecosystems, and horticultural trade. The Kansas Department of Agriculture works cooperatively with Kansas State University and Extension programs, United States Department of Agriculture, and various commodity groups.

## Pine wilt—movement into western Kansas November 2010



The area to the east of the blue line is an established area of pine wilt disease. Place marks indicate substantial movement westward from this line. These locations west of the line are under control efforts for eradication.